

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 01481 180952Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3689
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CDRDARCOM ALEX VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1481

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MASS, IR, JO, MU
SUBJECT: REPAIR OF TOW MISSILES

REF (A) MUSCAT 636 NOTAL, (B) STATE 094501 NOTAL,
(C) MUSCAT 1013 NOTAL, (D) MUSCAT 1168 NOTAL, (E)
TEHRAN 7073 NOTAL

1. COMMANDER OF SULTANATE'S LAND FORCES, GENERAL DAVID THE O'MORCHOE, APPROACHED US THIS WEEK ON POSSIBILITY OF REPAIRING OMAN'S TOW COMPONENTS IN JORDAN. THIS IS NEW IDEA WHICH WOULD BE ALTERNATIVE TO PENDING QUESTION OF REPAIRS IN IRAN, SUBJECT OF REFTELS. GENERAL O'MORCHOE SAID THERE HAD BEEN VERY LITTLE PROGRESS ON IRANIAN OPTION, THOUGH TALKS WITH IRANIANS ARE CONTINUING. FOLLOWING RECENT TRIP HE MADE TO JORDAN, O'MORCHOE NOW BELIEVES THAT A REPAIR PROGRAM IN JORDAN IS MORE PROMISING. RELATIONS BETWEEN OMANI AND JORDANIAN MILITARY FORCES ARE CLOSE, HE SAID, AND BOTH BEING ARAB COUNTRIES THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL PROBLEMS ARE MINIMIZED.

2. O'MORCHOE HAS LEARNED THAT JORDAN HAS IN-COUNTRY CAPABILITY TO REPAIR ITS OWN TOW'S FOR "ORGANIZATIONAL
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MAINTENANCE" AND "DIRECT SUPPORT MAINTENANCE", THESE BEING THE FIRST TWO OF THREE STAGES OF REPAIR IN GENERAL TOW PROGRAM. JORDAN SENDS IT TOW'S TO U.S. FOR THIRD AND MOST COMPLICATED STAGE, I.E. "DEPOT MAINTENANCE", BUT IS NEGOTIATING WITH USG TO DO THIS IN-COUNTRY AS WELL.

3. O'MORCHOE REQUESTS THAT WE OBTAIN SAME USG AGREEMENT

IN PRINCIPLE THAT WE RECEIVED FOR OMANI-IRANIAN NEGOTIATIONS LAST APRIL (REF B), TOGETHER WITH ANY CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT APPLY. OMANIS WOULD THEN PURSUE JORDANIAN AND IRANIAN OPTIONS CONCURRENTLY--THOUGH, IF O'MORCHOE'S CURRENT PREFERENCE HOLDS UP, WE SUSPECT MOST ATTENTION WILL HENCE-FORTH BE GIVEN TO JORDANIAN ALTERNATIVE.

4. THERE IS SOME URGENCY TO THIS MATTER, BECAUSE OMAN'S PRESENT PROGRAM OF TOW REPAIR AT ALL STAGES IN U.S. (FMS CASE UAD) EXPIRES AT END OF THIS YEAR. O'MORCHOE WISHES TO HAVE A NEW PROGRAM OR ALTERNATIVELY RENEWAL OF CASE UAD ON THE TRACK AT THAT TIME. GIVEN FRUSTRATING DELAYS ENCOUNTERED SO FAR IN CASE UAD (SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MESSAGES NOTAL), O'MORCHOE SEEMS EAGER TO FIND A WAY TO AVOID RENEWAL OF UAD IF POSSIBLE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: SUGGEST DEPARTMENT OBTAIN CLEANRANCE ASAP FOR OMANIS TO NEGOTIATE WITH JORDANIANS ON SAME BASIS AS THEY NOW TALKING TO IRANIANS IN MATTER OF TOW MAINTENANCE.

6. FOR TEHRAN: INFO YOU REQUESTED REF E IS STILL BEING DEVELOPED AND IS NOT YET READ. O'MORCHOE'S CHIEF STAFF OFFICER TELLS US THAT THEIR WORK ON THIS MATTER CANNOT PROCEED VERY FAR BECAUSE THERE IS EXTREME LACK OF EXPERTISE ON OMANI SIDE CONCERNING PRECISELY WHAT SERVICES ARE NEEDED. THEY THEREFORE HAVE TO RELY ON IRANIANS, AND NOW JORDANIANS, TO

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ADVISE THEM AS NEGOTIATIONS MOVE FORWARD. ACCORDINGLY, IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE SUGGEST YOU GIVE IRANIANS GENERALLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE ON BASIS OF REF B. WE WILL PASS ON INFO YOU REQUESTED IF AND WHEN AVAILABLE.

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